

# UNDERHILL – JERICHO FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC ANNUAL REPORT FY 2015 - 2016



A dramatic photograph of a firefighter in silhouette, wearing a helmet and protective gear, facing a massive, intense fire. The fire is bright orange and yellow, with thick smoke rising. The firefighter is positioned in the lower left, looking towards the fire on the right. The background is dark, making the fire stand out prominently.

Our Mission:  
The Underhill-Jericho  
Fire Department is  
dedicated to the  
preservation of life and  
property through fire  
suppression, education  
and prevention



## UNDERHILL – JERICHO FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.

Non-Emergency Phone Number: 899-4025

Website [www.ujfd.org](http://www.ujfd.org)

### A Message from the Chief

The members of the Underhill Jericho Fire Department are pleased to offer you this annual report for the fiscal year 2015-2016. This report will address your fire department's activities and accomplishments for the year. It is our goal to provide the highest level of service possible to the citizens of Underhill and Jericho while honoring the established budget as supported by the town select boards. It is our desire to function and operate with complete transparency in all that we do.



The UJFD had a busy and productive year as an organization. The department experienced some highs and lows throughout the year. We continue to evolve as an organization to better understand the challenges of modern materials in homes and vehicles to be able to continue to provide the quality service that the community is accustomed to.

We have worked with the Jericho Fire Service Task Force during the year and are looking forward to a final report from them. I feel blessed to be able to serve the communities in this capacity and lead such a dedicated organization of men and women. I value the people I work with and their commitment to this organization and to the community on a regular basis. I am proud to be a member of this organization and of the communities I serve. I do not take this responsibility lightly and I place the safety of our firefighters and citizens in the highest regard.

I would like to thank the communities of both Underhill and Jericho for their support over the past years. Without the support of the communities to the fire departments mission and goals, we would not be able to provide the quality of service to the citizens that they expect from us.

On a final note, I want to thank both the members of the UJFD and their families for all their sacrifices during the year. Emergency calls don't care about anniversaries, birthdays or other special occasions and our members always show up prepared and ready to deal with the emergency at hand. Without the support of our families the members of the UJFD would not succeed. It takes a team effort and the UJFD has a great team of firefighters and their families. I would like to say a special thank you to my wife Jackie for all of her patience throughout the year. I would also like to thank the citizens of both Underhill and Jericho for their support over the last year.

Respectfully Submitted by:

*Mathew Champlin*

Chief Mathew Champlin





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Department Photo Memorial Day May 2016



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### History of the Underhill Jericho Fire Department

The UJFD was formed in 1913 by a group of townspeople who were worried about protecting their homes and businesses. The first piece of firefighting equipment in the town was a chemical tank mounted on two wagon wheels and stored between the Elbridge Nealy furniture and jewelry store and a barber shop run by Frank Ladue on Park Street.



Chemical Tank  
Extinguisher

In 1927 the men motorized the equipment with the purchase of a 1927 Model-TT Ford that was outfitted with two forty gallon chemical tanks. In 1934 a 1927 Packard Coupe was purchased and the chemical tanks were installed in the Packard. In 1936 a fire station was built at the corner of Park Street and Route 15. The station housed the 1927 Packard. In 1936 the town of Jericho started providing contributions and the department began maintaining fire protection for Jericho and Underhill. As the towns grew, so did the fire department. A 1942 army surplus Chevrolet truck was purchased

and a 500 gpm pump the department owned was mounted on this truck. The first factory built fire truck, an International Model V196 was purchased in 1964. The Underhill-Jericho Fire Department currently operates nine pieces of apparatus. Each apparatus carries a set of equipment to allow the apparatus to perform its function, from firefighting and automobile extrication to water hauling and pumping.



Jericho Center Area Station

The UJFD firefighting apparatus operate out of two fire stations. The Jericho substation is located on Brown's Trace in Jericho Center and was built in 1982 on land that was donated to the department by Don and Alice Rivers. This substation is used primarily as a quick response station to calls in Jericho Center.



Underhill Station

The Underhill station is located at 420 Route 15 in Underhill and serves as the main station. The station was built in 1997 and was designed to serve as a fire station and an emergency operations center. This building consists of a 6400 sq. ft. apparatus bay area and a 4100 sq. ft. administrative section.



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### **Mission and Values**

#### **Mission Statement**

The Underhill Jericho Fire Department is dedicated to the preservation of life and property through fire suppression, education and prevention.

#### **Core Values**

- Professionalism Developed Through Training
- Maintain the Faith and Trust of the communities we serve through attitude, conduct and accomplishments.
- Responsible Decision Making
- Continuous Improvement and Attentiveness to the Changing Needs of the Communities we serve
- Open and Honest Communication
- Operate with Fiscal Responsibility to the Communities

#### **Core Services**

- Fire Suppression
- Rescue
- Public Education
- Risk Assessment and Reduction
- Community Service



Wildland Fire Training



Low Profile Training



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### Department Structure

#### Administration

The Underhill Jericho Fire Department is a non-profit corporation specifically in the business of providing fire protection and rescue services to the Towns of Underhill and Jericho. The administrative staff consists of the Chief, 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Chief, 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Chief, Treasurer, Clerk and the Moderator. The Administration of the department is responsible for providing the leadership to the department membership and managing its' resources in accordance with common and accepted standards and practices. The administrators are also responsible to ensure the integrity of the department's finances and that all department expenditures are kept within the budget set in place with the Select boards.

#### Operations

The Chiefs, line officers and full time staff are responsible for the daily operations of the department. This group of people is responsible for the maintenance of all the equipment owned and operated by the Underhill Jericho Fire Department. This equipment is maintained at all times in a state of readiness should a call for service arise. When a call for service is received, the responsibility for the departments' response encompasses all the officers of the department. The membership of the department is expected to respond to all calls if they are available. Every effort is made to ensure an appropriate response for the nature of the call received. The department has a series of standard operating guidelines to assist in managing this task. The responsibility for training of the department falls primarily with the training Chief, the Captains, and the Lieutenants of the department. An annual training plan is developed and reviewed to ensure that all the necessary training objectives are met. The department is part of the state wide mutual aid compact and responds when requested by our surrounding communities when requested. These communities also respond to assist the UJFD when called upon.





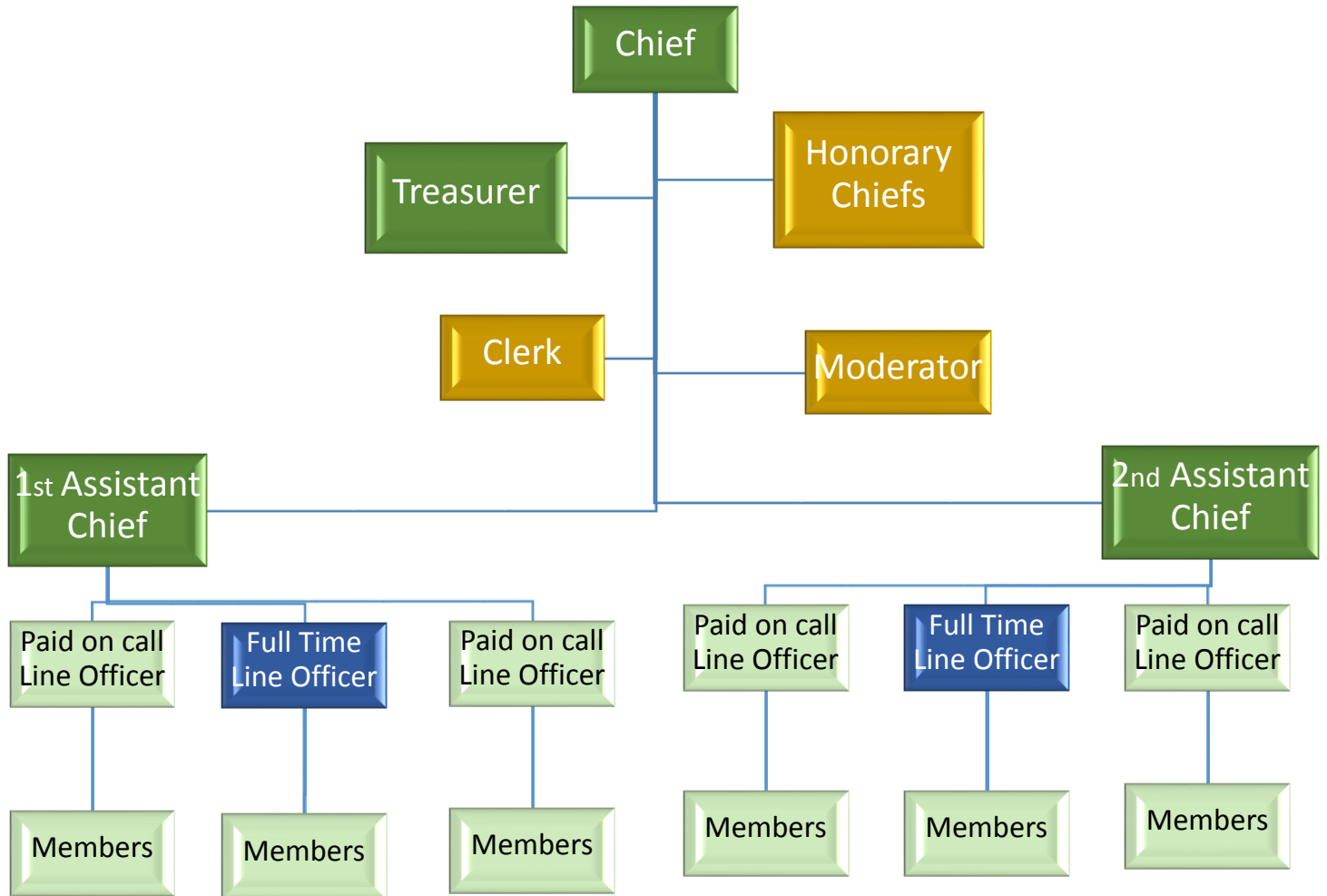


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**Department Organization Chart**





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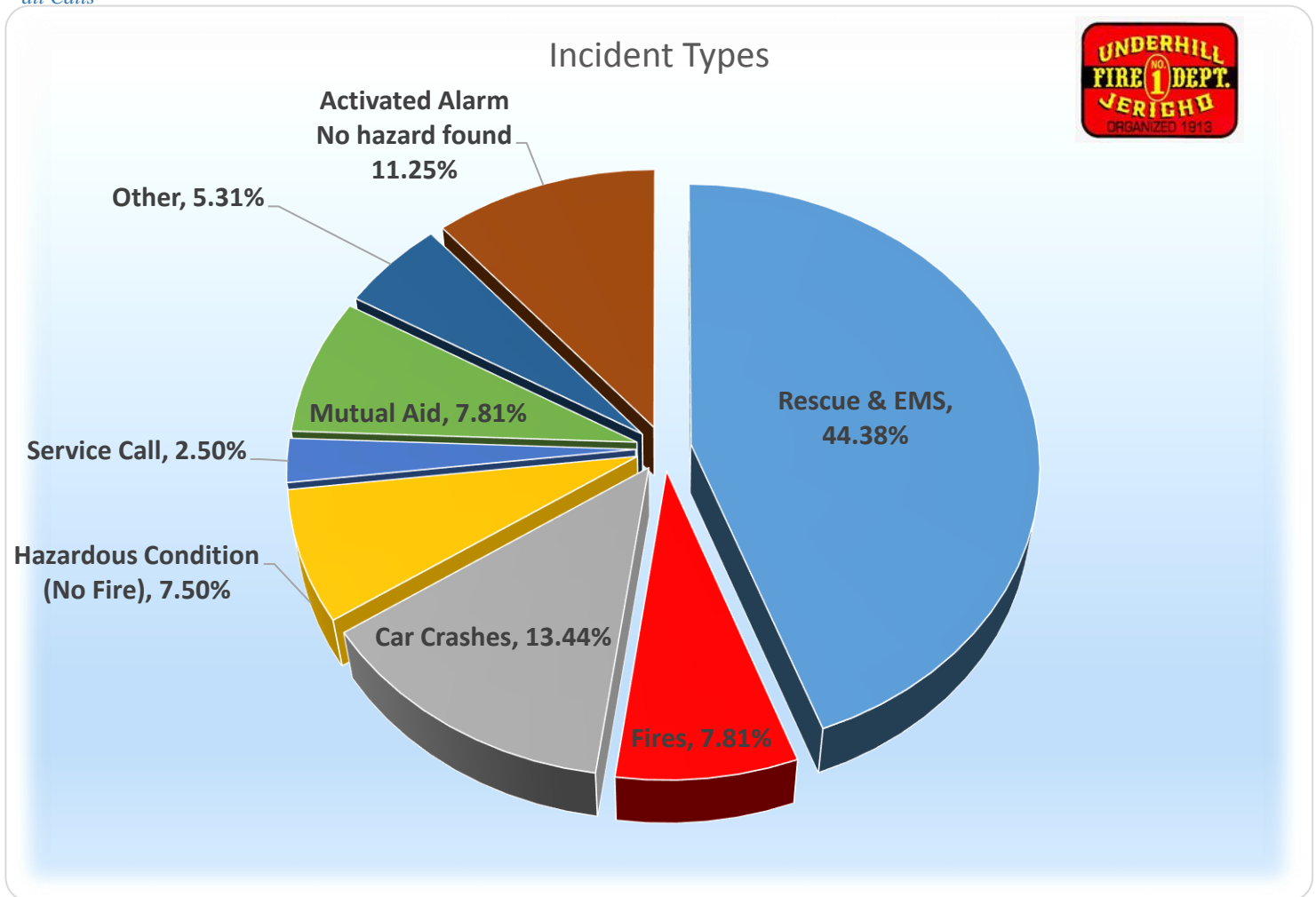
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### 2015 -2016 Reports

#### **Incident Breakdown**

The Underhill Jericho Fire Department utilizes a Fire / EMS reporting software to evaluate the department's performance in terms of emergency call data and member activity. All call information and membership attendance is recorded in this database. Using this information we have prepared several reports to give you a look at the fire departments work over the Fiscal year 2015-2016. The date range goes from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016.

*Figure 1 2015 – 2016 Percentage Incidents by Type for all Calls*



Total Number of Incidents: 320  
Type of Incident Most Frequent: Rescue & Emergency Medical

Examples of **Hazardous Conditions** are propane or natural gas leaks, power line down or carbon monoxide conditions.

Example of **Other** are when we are dispatched and cancelled en route



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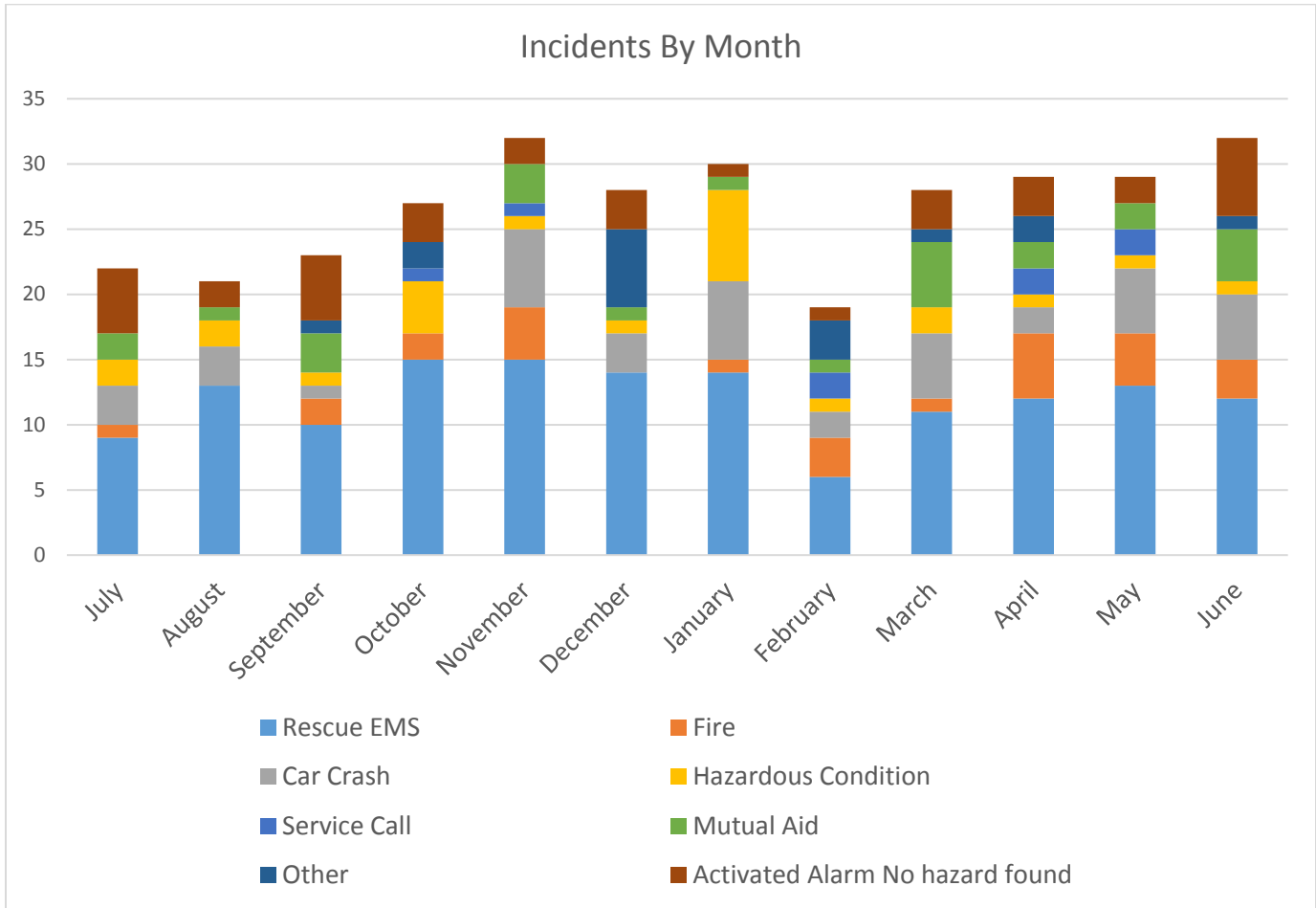


Figure 1 Incidents by Month





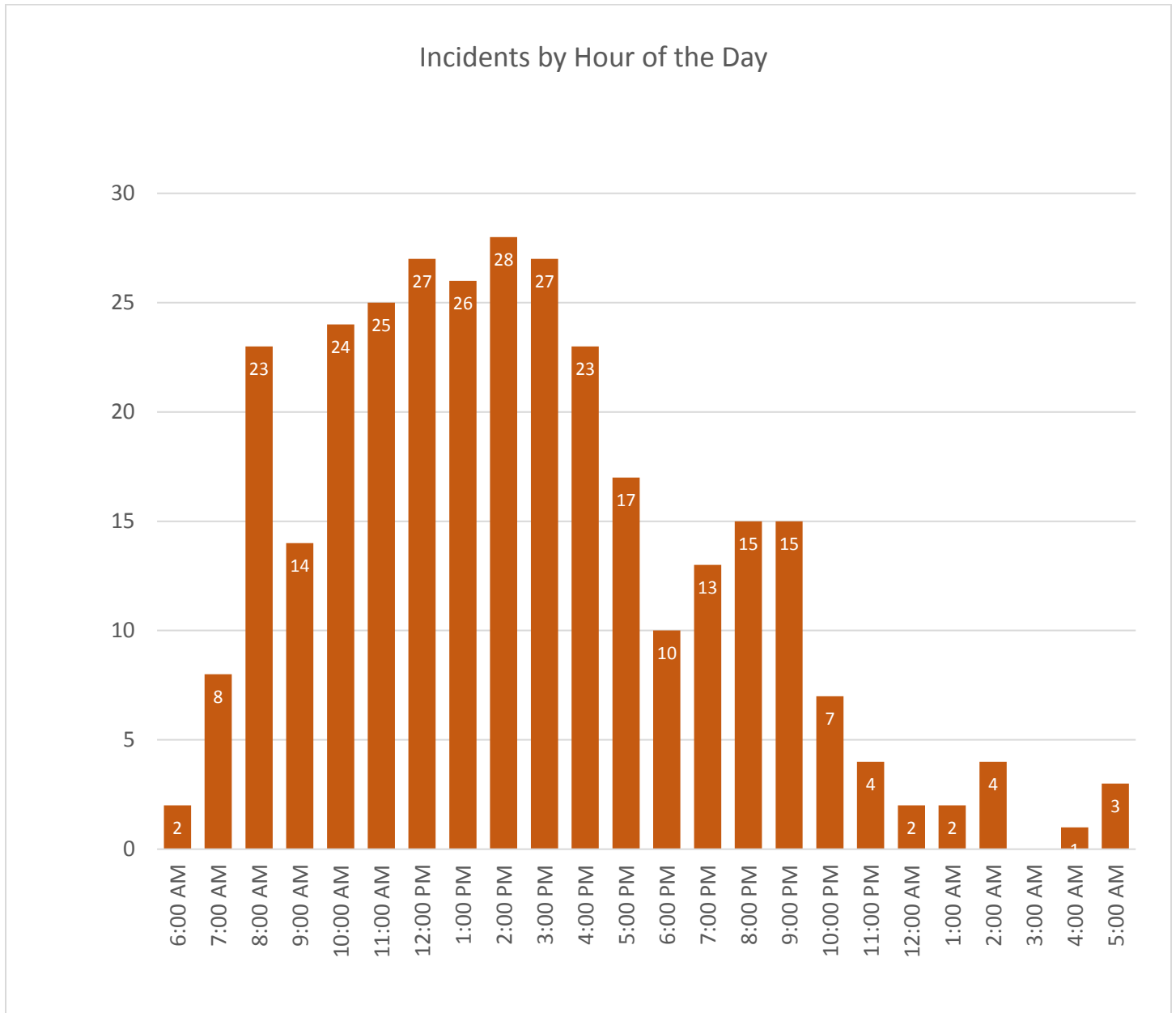


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Figure 2 Incidents by Hour of the Day





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The Team in Action at the VSFA Convention.





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Website [www.ujfd.org](http://www.ujfd.org)**Underhill Jericho Fire Department Financial Report FY 2015 – 2016**

<b>INCOME:</b>	<b>BUDGET 2015-2016</b>	<b>ACTUAL 2015-2016</b>
UNDERHILL	216,112	216,112
JERICHO	324,168	324,168
ESSEX RESCUE OVERTIME REIMBURSEMENT	0	0
FEMA & STATE REIMBURSEMENT FOR DISASTERS	0	0
OTHER	0	2,977
RENT ESSEX RESCUE	4,200	4,200
DONATIONS	0	2,655
INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENT & GRANT INCOME	0	217,286
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$544,480</b>	<b>\$767,398</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>		
STIPENDS AND SALARIES	194,500	173,104
FICA & MEDICARE CAREER AND PAID ON CALL STAFF	15,000	12,601
LEGAL / ACCOUNTING / AUDIT	14,600	22,831
WORKERS COMPENSATION INSURANCE	10,500	18,084
INSURANCE	38,300	33,973
HEAT/PHONE/INTERNET/ELECTRICITY/WATER	21,000	16,326
VEHICLE MAINTENANCE	34,800	35,442
EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	6,500	3,406
FIRE EDUCATION/PREVENTION/TRAINING	3,000	2,881
STATION MAINTENANCE	14,000	16,993
FIREFIGHTER SAFETY EQUIPMENT	18,556	16,333
EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS	7,000	1,809
NEW EQUIPMENT & HOSE	12,000	13,772
EXTRICATION & HAZMAT EQUIPMENT	4,000	562
FIREFIGHTER PERSONAL SAFETY	6,750	5,426
MISCELLANEOUS	500	0
OFFICE EXPENSE	7,000	6,618
INSURANCE & GRANT EXPENSES	0	220,868
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>		
BUILDING LOAN PAYMENT	41,369	41,368
BUILDING RESERVE	0	0
TRUCK LOAN PAYMENT	77,087	78,106
TRUCK REPLACEMENT RESERVE	9,618	9,618
AIR-PAK AND PORTABLE RADIO RESERVE	8,400	8,400
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>\$544,480</b>	<b>\$738,521</b>
<b>TRANSFERS TO RESERVE FUNDS</b>		
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS RESERVE	0	0
NEW EQUIPMENT RESERVE	0	0
PAID ON CALL PAYROLL RESERVE	0	0
CAREER SALARY RESERVE	0	0
TRAINING CENTER RESERVE	0	0
FIREFIGHTER PERSONAL SAFETY RESERVE	0	0
OPERATING RESERVE	0	28,877
<b>TOTAL TRANSFERS:</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$28,877</b>
<b>TOTAL UNDERHILL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$216,112</b>	
<b>TOTAL JERICHO BUDGET</b>	<b>\$324,168</b>	



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Account	Starting Balance As of 7/1/15	Transactions	Ending Balance As of 6/30/2015
<b>CAPITAL RESERVES</b>			
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS RESERVE	\$8,730	\$0	\$8,730
TRUCK REPLACEMENT RESERVE	\$48,350	\$9,618	\$57,968
AIR-PAK AND PORTABLE RADIO RESERVE	\$28,180	\$8,400	\$36,580
<b>PAYROLL RESERVES</b>			
PAID ON CALL PAYROLL RESERVE	\$40,053	\$0	\$40,053
FULL TIME SALARY RESERVE	\$37,901	\$0	\$37,901
<b>MISCELLANEOUS RESERVES</b>			
NEW EQUIPMENT RESERVE	\$11,114	\$0	\$11,114
PRIVATE DONATIONS	\$1,748	\$6,668	\$8,416
MEMORIAL PARK	\$877	\$700	\$1,577
TRAINING CENTER	\$3,975	\$0	\$3,975
FIREFIGHTER PERSONAL SAFETY (PHYSICALS)	\$2,794	\$0	\$2,794
CAR SEAT SAFETY	\$4,930	\$0	\$4,930

**Rivers Land Account**

	Actual 2015-2016
<b>INCOME:</b>	
STARTING BALANCE	\$33,999
RIVERS HOUSE RENTAL	\$14,308
MISCELLANEOUS	\$20
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$48,327</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>	
HOUSE REPAIRS	\$3,512
PIT CLOSURE BOND	\$1,950
PROPERTY TAXES	\$9,445
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$14,907</b>
ENDING BALANCE	\$33,420
<b>CASH BALANCE INCLUDING SECURITY DEPOSIT</b>	<b>\$33,420</b>
Security Deposit Held	\$2,390



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### Firefighting Apparatus

#### Engine 1



Engine 1 serves mainly as a tanker and a water supply pumper. It can also operate as an attack engine if needed. This apparatus responds to fires of all types.

Engine 1 is a 2013 International E-One tanker pumper. It has a MaxxForce 13 Diesel engine at 475 horse power, with an Allison automatic transmission. It has a Hale 1250 GPM pump and a 2650 gallon water tank. To off load water quickly it has 3 – 10 inch dump valves, one on each side and one on the back of the truck. It also carries a 2500 gallon folding tank. For hose on this truck we have 2 – 1.75 inch cross lays that are each 200 feet long, 400 feet of 3 inch hose and 2560 feet of 5 inch large diameter supply hose. We also carry a 35 foot 3 fly extension ladder, a 14 foot roof ladder and 4 Scott NXG2 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus.



Please visit our website at [www.ujfd.org](http://www.ujfd.org) and if you ever have a question please contact Captain Harry Schoppmann at 899-4025 or [harry@ujfd.org](mailto:harry@ujfd.org).





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### Engine 5



Responding from either the Jericho or Underhill station, this attack pumper is usually the first piece of apparatus to any incident that involves a fire or hazardous condition.

Engine 5 is a 2002 International E-One attack pumper. It has a 1250 gpm Hale pump with a 1000 gallon tank. There is a hydraulic ladder rack that holds a 28 foot 2 fly extension ladder, a 14 foot roof ladder and a folding attic ladder. This truck has 2 – 1.75 inch cross lays that are each 200 feet long. We have an addition 2 – 1.75 inch rear hose loads that are also each 200 feet long. We have 200 feet of 3 inch hose that is hooked to a portable monitor for putting large volumes of water on a fire. Lastly for hose this truck carries 1200 feet of 5 inch large diameter supply hose. This number is not by accident as fire hydrants in Underhill and Jericho are 1000 feet apart. This truck has a 5 person cab and carries 5 Scott NXG2 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus. We also have a 5000 watt Honda generator that is connected to scene lights and 2 – 200 foot cord reels. We carry a multi-gas meter to perform Carbon Monoxide checks and a thermal imaging camera to use during calls. Engine 5 and 11 are sister trucks that are built almost exactly alike. The gear on each truck is stowed similarly for ease of use.







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### Engine 11



Responding from either the Jericho or Underhill station, this attack pumper is usually the first piece of apparatus to any incident that involves a fire or hazardous condition.

Engine 11 is a 2007 International E-One attack pumper. It has a 1250 gpm Hale pump with a 1000 gallon tank. There is a hydraulic ladder rack that holds a 28 foot 2 fly extension ladder, a 14 foot roof ladder and a folding attic ladder. This truck has 2 – 1.75 inch cross lays that are each 200 feet long. We have additional 2 – 1.75 inch rear hose loads that are also each 200 feet long. We have 200 feet of 3 inch hose that is hooked to a portable monitor for putting large volumes of water on a fire. Lastly for hose this truck carries 1200 feet of 5 inch large diameter supply hose. This number is not by accident as fire hydrants in Underhill and Jericho are 1000 feet apart. This truck has a 5 person cab and carries 5 Scott NXG2 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus. We also have a 5000 watt Honda generator that is connected to scene lights and 2 – 200 foot cord reels. We carry a multi-gas meter to perform Carbon Monoxide checks and a thermal imaging camera to use during calls. Engine 5 and 11 are sister trucks that are built almost exactly alike.



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The gear on each truck is stowed similarly for ease of use.

### Rescue 1



Rescue 1 is the UJFD's rolling toolbox and responds from the Underhill station. This piece of apparatus is the first to respond to all car crashes and other types of rescues.



Rescue 1 is a 2002 International E-One with a Rescue body. The truck has a 5 person cab. There is a 12,000 pound winch in the extended bumper on the front of the truck. The truck carries the Hurst Extrication tools also known as the Jaws of Life. There are 2 sets of vehicle stabilization jacks, 2 sets of Maxiforce airbag lifting equipment, 4 cold water rescue suits, 4 personal floatation devices, rope bags, a Hurst power unit and a Hurst portable power unit, one 6000 watt light tower, 2 – 500 watt portable tripod lights, 1 – 1000 watt telescoping light, 4 electric cord reels, 6 sawzalls, and a Poseidon Breathing air booster pump for filling air cylinders. All of this electric equipment is powered by a 20,000 watt generator that is driven by the trucks engine. This truck carries our hazmat response gear and 5 Scott NXG2 4.5 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus.



Mock Crash at MMU





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### Tanker 2



Tanker 2 responds from the Jericho station and provides an initial water supply until a more permanent water supply is established. This truck also has on-board foam capabilities.

Tanker 2 is a 1990 International American Eagle Tanker. It has a DT466 engine at 245 horsepower. It has an Allison automatic transmission and a Hale midship pump rated at 450 gallons per minute foam system. There is a 50 gallon foam tank and a 1700 gallon water tank. There is a 6 inch quick dump and a 5 inch fill/dump valve on the rear of the truck. This truck carries a 2000 gallon portable pond. There is a hose reel that holds 300 feet of 1.75 inch hose. We also have 200 feet of 2.5 inch hose. This truck is a 2 person cab and carries 2 Scott NXG2 4.5 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus.



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### Engine 4



Responding from the Underhill station, Engine 4 allows us to provide a substantial flow of water from static sources using large diameter hose run from an emergency incident to a water source as far away as 2500 feet. As a 4 wheel drive engine, Engine 4 can be quickly converted to an attack pumper to gain access to narrow, steep or snow and ice covered driveways.

Engine 4 is a 1993 International E-One reel truck with a DT 466 engine with 250 horsepower. It has an Allison automatic transmission and a Hale front mount pump rated at 1250 gallons per minute. Engine 4 has a 500 gallon water tank. Being a reel truck it carries 2500 feet of 5 inch large diameter hose. Engine 4 is unique and in that it has a 400 gallon per minute hydraulic pump that can be quickly deployed to establish a water supply. Engine 4 also has hose reels that hold 360 feet of 1.75 inch hose and another hose reel that holds 450 feet of 3 inch hose. One unique piece of equipment on this truck is an extra-long hard suction hose to be able to extend our reach to streams, ponds or other natural water sources. This truck also carries 2 Scott NXG2







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4.5 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus and is a 2 person cab.

### **Squad 51**



Squad 51 responds from the Underhill station as a first response vehicle. During the weekdays our full time staff uses it to respond directly to EMS calls. This allows for quick medical care and also offers a size-up of the scene to incoming units during other emergency situations. This vehicle is also utilized by the full time staff and officers to accomplish the snow plowing duties at both stations.

Squad 51 is a 2008 Ford F-350, 4 wheel drive heavy duty truck. It carries several radios to allow it to function as a command vehicle and carries a mobile repeater which extends the range of our radio system. The truck is equipped with medical equipment, extinguishers, traffic cones a chain saw, rescue equipment, a FIT device, several personal floatation devices, rope throw bags, hazardous materials equipment, gas meter and thermal imaging camera. These supplies give the first arriving officer at an incident most of the tools needed to accomplish a good assessment of the scene and also the ability to take care of small fires before an engine arrives keeping damage to a minimum.



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### Utility 3



Utility 3 responds out of the Underhill station and is used primarily to transport people and our wild land firefighting equipment including the gator to all wildland or brush fire calls. The truck also carries a compliment of traffic detour equipment should the need arise to close a road for an extended time, we can set up a detour to keep traffic flowing.

Utility 3 is a 1995 Chevrolet model K3500 four wheel drive truck. It has a 6.5 liter diesel engine and has an automatic transmission. This unit has a 6 man cab. We also have an 8,000 pound winch and a 5000W Yamaha generator. There are 2 – 500 watt flood lights on the body of the truck mounted to telescoping poles to allow lighting of scenes.





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### Gator



The John Deere gator is stored on a heavy duty trailer at the Underhill station and is transported to emergency scenes with Utility 3. The original Gator was obtained via a grant from the US Smokeless tobacco company and was a 6X4 unit. An upgrade to a 4X4 unit with tracks was accomplished when the department participated in a grant contest with the TUMS Corporation and received a \$10,000 grant. The new 4X4 gator was outfitted with a water skid unit and Rescue Boggin to provide the department with a highly functional unit. The primary mission of the gator is to access wildland or brush fires

in the rural areas of Underhill and Jericho. The skid unit can easily be removed and once connected to the Rescue Boggin the gator is a highly versatile piece of back country rescue equipment. We use the gator during Harvest Market to provide fire protection to all the vendors; it provides quick and easy access to the congested areas of the Harvest Market.

The gator is a 2013 John Deere Gator UTV diesel that is 4 wheel drive and outfitted with tracks to improve performance in soft ground and snow conditions. The skid unit is a 100 gallons per minute pump with a 70 gallon water tank. We have a 150 foot  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch preconnected booster line and 400 feet of 1 inch diameter forestry hose. We carry a TFT Foam pro pac with Class A foam. We have an electric winch that can be used with either the front or rear receivers.







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**Paid on Call Staff**



Chief  
Mathew Champlin (11 yrs)



1st Assist Chief  
Tim Clark (32 yrs)



2nd Assist Chief  
Loni Morse (27 yrs)



Honorary Chief / Treasurer  
Randy H. Clark (59 yrs)



Honorary Chief  
Dave Tillotson (44 yrs)



Honorary Chief  
Randy E. Clark (35 yrs)



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**Captain**

**Dwight Decoster (22 yrs)**



**Captain**

**Andrew Stevens (7 yrs)**



**Lieutenant**

**Parker Ripley (13 yrs)**



**Lieutenant**

**Calvin Caswell (6 yrs)**





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Firefighter Brian Clark  
(33 yrs)



Dispatcher / Clerk  
Kitty Clark (29 yrs)



Firefighter Shawn Danaher  
(18 yrs)



Firefighter Nathan Goldman  
(18 yrs)



Firefighter Johannes Jobst  
(18 yrs)



Firefighter Todd Fischer  
(15 yrs)



Auxiliary Cathy Clark  
(13 yrs)



Auxiliary Christal Clark  
(13 yrs)



Fire Police Frank Popeleski  
(10 yrs)



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Firefighter Brad Fischer  
(10 yrs)



Firefighter Roy Spiller  
(8 yrs)



Firefighter Travis Hale  
(6 yrs)



Auxiliary Sherry Fischer  
(6 yrs)



Firefighter Todd Hallock  
(5 yrs)



Firefighter Erich Kasprk  
(5 yrs)



Auxiliary Patricia Stevens  
(5 yrs)



Specialist Julie Jacob-Ochs  
(5 yrs)



Firefighter Daniel Champlin  
(2 yrs)





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Firefighter Jordan Jillson  
(2 yrs)



Firefighter Troy Jillson  
(2 yrs)



Firefighter Greg Leech  
(2 yrs)



Firefighter Marcus Stevens  
(2 yrs)



Firefighter Connor Morway  
(2 yrs)



Firefighter Gerald Russin Jr.  
(1 yr)



Firefighter Andrew Champlin  
(1 yr)



Firefighter Corey Clark  
(1 yr)



Firefighter Adam Fischer  
(0.5 yrs)





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Firefighters not pictured

Firefighter Lee Dumas (47 yrs)

Firefighter Shawn Martell (17 yrs)

Firefighter Austin Combs (1 yr)

Auxiliary Cis Dumas (13 yrs)

Auxiliary Pam Martell (8 yrs)



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### Full Time Staff



Captain Harry  
Schoppmann (8 yrs)

Harry has been our Full Time Duty Captain since 2008. Harry currently holds a Vermont Fire Fighter 1 certification. Harry also holds a State of Vermont and National Registry Advanced EMT license.



Lieutenant Sean McCann  
(6 yrs)

Sean McCann became the department's second full time firefighter in January of 2015. Prior to becoming a full time firefighter Sean was a member of the department as a paid on call member.





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### **2015 – 2016 Events and Success Stories**

The UJFD considers the FY 15 – 16 year a success. Although the department had many challenges throughout the year, we executed our mission safely and under budget.

The year saw the department experience a number of setbacks; we had a pipe freeze in the station causing extensive damage, a truck slide off a private road that was very icy during an emergency response and we suffered the loss of a former member to a tragic event. Throughout it all the department was able to overcome these events and emerge as a stronger organization. The station was repaired through the hard work and dedication of members Nate Goldman, Greg Leech, Randy H. Clark, Kitty Clark, Dave Tillotson, Lee Dumas and Erich Kasprich who each spent extra time to get the job done. The truck was repaired and returned to us with a few upgrades we chose to make to enhance the safety of the apparatus and the firefighters who ride on it. The members leaned heavily on each other to overcome our loss and the comradery shown amongst the team was what got us through.

In January the department held its' annual award banquet where several members were awarded years of service awards and perfect attendance awards. Perfect attendance is given to those members who attend all the planned Tuesday night trainings and drills. This is no small feat considering the department meets an average of 49 Tuesdays a year. Some notable awards this year were 5 years of service to Firefighter Todd Hallock, Firefighter Erich Kasprich, Firefighter Sean McCann, Specialist Julie Jacob Ochs, Auxiliary Member Sherry Fischer and Auxiliary Member Patricia Stevens. We also had on member reach 15 years of service with the department, Firefighter Todd Fischer was awarded a plaque for his 15 years of service. We capped the night with the awarding of Fire Specialist of the year to Patricia Stevens, Fire Officer of the year to Lieutenant Sean McCann and Firefighter of the year to Greg Leech. All of these members exemplified their commitment to the UJFD by going above and beyond the day to day demands of the fire service. These members performed extra duties, spent extra time, they embody the spirit of the fire department and are always there when needed.

In August of 2015 the department attended the Vermont State Firefighters Association Convention in Bennington, Vermont. This event is always a good time. There are many vendors who bring the latest and greatest fire equipment for display and some of the State of Vermont fire departments get together to test their skills in muster games. In 2015 the UJFD under the leadership of Lieutenant Calvin Caswell took home trophies for second place in bucket brigade, third place in SCBA endurance and third place in water polo. The team trained hard, played hard and had a good time. During the VSFA banquet later in the evening our very own Patricia Stevens was awarded the State of Vermont Fire Specialist of the year award. Congratulations Patricia on a job well done.

The UJFD is always in need of people who are interested in becoming a firefighter. We currently have some open positions and people are encouraged to stop by the fire house on any Tuesday night during training to meet some people and ask some questions. You should be able to see what some of the things we do are all about. The members of the UJFD are a very hard working group of people. We hold training almost every Tuesday night in addition to the emergency calls that happen at all times of the day and night. We have a great group of people with unique skills that handle all kinds of emergencies—from fires, car crashes, CO alarms, fire alarms, wind damage and flooding damage—with skill, expertise, and compassion for those that are impacted by the emergency.

The UJFD once again wants to remind the community about the ISO ratings of the fire department. The current ratings of 4 for buildings within a 1000 feet of a hydrant, 6 for buildings within 5 miles of either fire station and 10 for those homes beyond 5 miles for the fire station are amongst the best in the state of Vermont. As a matter of fact there are only 3 fire departments in the State of Vermont with better ISO ratings. The improved ISO ratings have the potential to save homeowners more on their homeowners insurance than the cost of the fire department. For example, for a home with an appraised value of \$200,000, in Jericho you would pay \$77.25 a year for the fire department, while in Underhill you would pay \$88.70 a year for the fire department.



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The Improved ISO ratings routinely save homeowners more on their homeowners insurance than they pay annually for the fire department. On that same home if a person paid \$1200 a year for their homeowners insurance, a savings of 10% will save you \$120 which is more than the cost of the fire department. Typically the ISO ratings the UJFD has will save a homeowner between 50% and 60% on their homeowners insurance. The cost of \$88.70 works out to be just \$0.24 cents per day. 1 cup of coffee a day costs \$1, cell phone service even on the cheapest plans that cost \$9.99 for 30 days costs you \$0.33 cents per day.

In the area of community service and education, the UJFD held the Memorial Day Parade, sponsored the Harvest Market parade and participated in Harvest Market. We also did a number of fire prevention trainings throughout the year. We held events at the Underhill ID, Poker Hill School, Jericho Elementary School, Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, Jericho Center Library and the Jericho Elementary School after school Live Y'ers program. Through this effort we reached 300 children and 31 adults and teachers. We also provide car seat safety inspections for area residents. The UJFD offers car seat inspections for anyone who requests them by appointment or walk in 5 days a week. The UJFD also offers for sale the green reflective number signs to better identify your driveway to everyone who is trying to find it. These signs have proven to be exceedingly valuable in time sensitive situations to help locate a home or business. Last year we issued 100 signs to the community. If we respond to an address that does not have one, we always leave an application for one that the resident or business can complete to get their sign. This application is also included in the town report.

Throughout the year the UJFD has worked with the Jericho Fire Services Task force to provide insight and information to them about the UJFD and its people, operations and budget. We look forward to the results of the investigation.

### **Budget Report**

For FY 15 – 16 the UJFD saw a decrease in our call volume from the previous year. For FY 14 – 15 we had 331 calls while in FY 15 – 16 we had 320 calls. We also completed our first full year with 2 full time employees. The decrease in call volume resulted in the UJFD being underspent on our payroll. This is the area that the budget differed from our actual expenditures. If anyone has questions regarding the UJFD budget, please contact us at 899-4025 or by email at [info@ujfd.org](mailto:info@ujfd.org) and we will gladly discuss any questions you may have.

### **Current Projects**

The UJFD is constantly working to improve our performance and to keep pace with the ever changing world we live in. Home construction is constantly changing both how it is done and what materials are used to build homes today. Light weight construction presents many challenges to fire departments in regards to the safety of firefighters in these homes. Construction materials and what we outfit our homes with have all increased the fire load in a home from just a mere decade ago. Today's fires burn hotter and faster while the construction materials hold up less against those flames. In the world of the automobile, materials are forever changing and the need arises for a change in techniques and tools in order to extricate people from the vehicles of today. It is not only the homes and cars that are changing, but our towns are in a time of change as well. The fire department must be prepared for the new commercial buildings that are coming into the towns we serve. The communities are also growing as more and more homes are built and the equipment and people required to deal with emergencies in the communities must constantly be evaluated. Below are a few of the items that the UJFD is currently considering and evaluating. I want to caution people that these items are only under evaluation and these items are not set in concrete. However we feel it is important to be thinking about the future so we continue to be prepared to deal with the various emergency incidents that we will be faced with and be able to perform the tasks that need to be done while keeping the public and our firefighters safe.





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### **Station Renovations / Additions**

The mortgage for the main fire station in Underhill will be paid off in 2017. The station will be 20 years old and is in need of some maintenance. We recently had to replace our hot water heater, HVAC units and some of the faucets that see high use. The roofs of the Underhill and Jericho stations are in need of repairs as well as the driveway at the Underhill station. The current plan is to finance the necessary repairs on the stations so we can keep them in good working order for the foreseeable future.

### **Apparatus Replacement Plan**

The UJFD will have several pieces of apparatus that are coming due for replacement in the near future. The UJFD will be evaluating our apparatus needs for the future. Along with evaluating what apparatus will need replacement, we will consider the life expectancy of our apparatus. As call volume continues to increase, so does the wear and tear on the apparatus which can affect the service life of an apparatus.

### **Emergency Medical Services**

The UJFD is currently evaluating our role in fulfilling the communities need for emergency medical services. We are discussing with Essex Rescue the current model of coverage that exists and whether or not it is sufficient or a change would provide better coverage to the communities.

These are the current major projects that the UJFD is going to be working on. In the future the department will bring forward our proposals and plans to the select boards to discuss the needs and impacts that these projects will have on the communities. The UJFD prides itself on being a progressive fire department working hard to keep its communities and firefighters safe for all the emergencies that we face.

### **Grants**

The UJFD was awarded a Grant to update our radio systems. We received new portable radios this year and also updated our antenna system around town to improve our coverage throughout the community to improve communication. This helps with our response and the safety of our citizens as well as the safety and effectiveness of our firefighters. We were also awarded through the Fire Act Grant funds to replace our end of life Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). These are our air pacs and are some of the most important pieces of personal protective gear that we have for our firefighters. We are working to evaluate the various manufacturers of SCBA to determine which one will be the best for the UJFD.